(ग) ऐसे शिक्षण केन्द्रों की संख्या कितनी है; और

(घ) इन शिक्षण केन्द्रों को अधिक उपयोगी बनाने के लिए राज्य सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा कितनी-कितनी सहायता दी जाती है?

श्रम मंत्री (श्री एम० अरूणाचलम): (क) 1981 की जनगणना के अनुसार मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में कार्य कर रहे बालकों की कुल संख्या 16.98 लाख थी। विभिन्न संगठनों में कार्यरत बालकों की संख्या के बारे में सूचना नहीं रखी जाती है। 1991 की जनगणना के अनुसार, कार्यरत बालकों की संख्या के संबंध में सूचना महापंजीयक जनगणना कार्य द्वारा अभी तक जारी नहीं की गयी है।

(ख) से (घ): बाल श्रम (प्रतिषेध और विनियमन) अधिनियम, 1986 के अंतर्गत कतिपय व्यवसायों और प्रक्रियाओं में बालकों का नियोजन प्रतिषिद्ध है। अतः ऐसे नियोजकों जो ऐसे निषिद्ध व्यवसायों और प्रक्रियाओं में बालकों का नियोजन करते रहे हैं उन पर अभियोग चलाया जा सकता है। इसलिए, कार्यरत बालकों के पुनर्वास से संबंधित कार्य सरकार द्वारा मुख्यतः गैर-सरकारी संगठनों/जिला स्तर की परियोजना सोसाइटियों द्वारा किया जाता है। सरकार ने मध्य प्रदेश राज्य सहित देश में बाल श्रम की समस्या को हल करने के लिए अनेक कदम उठाये हैं। अब तक, राष्ट्रीय बाल श्रम परियोजना स्कीम के अंतर्गत मध्य प्रदेश के बिलासपुर, दुर्ग, मंदसौर, राजनंद गांव और सरगुजा जिलों के लिए 5 बाल श्रम परियोजनाएं स्वीकृत की गयी हैं। इनमें 138 विशेष विद्यालयों के माध्यम से 9,800 बालकों को परिधि में लाया गया है। कार्य से हटाये गये बालकों को इन विशेष विद्यालयों में रखा जाता है। जहां उन्हें अनौपचारिक शिक्षा, पोषणाहार, वजीफा और स्वास्थ्य जांच मुहैया करायी जाती है। इन विशेष विद्यालयों को चलाने के लिए 1995-96 के दौरान केन्द्र द्वारा 1.18 करोड़ रुपये की सहायता दी गई।

Filling up the posts reserved for SCs/STs

2742. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various posts reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes lying vacant in his Ministry of the last three years and till date;

(b) the action being taken to fill them up; and

(c) the time by which the said posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) In the Ministry of Coal, one post of Assistant (Direct Recruit) (Reserved for ST) and one post of Steno. Grade 'C (Departmental examinee) (Reserved for SC) are lying vacant for the last three years. These posts are to be filled on the basis of nomination of candidates by the Department of Personnel & Training. These vacancies have been initimated to the Deptt. of Personnel Training and will be filled as and when nominations are received.

Development and Expansion of Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Ltd.

2743. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up or propose to draw up any investment plan for the development and expansion of Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Ltd., Bhadravathi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor particularly when the said steel plant has great potentiality for expansion?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL & MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) M/s M.N. Dastur & Co. have been commissioned for preparation of report regarding viability and modernisation of VISL and suggest areas for investments.

(b) and (c) Details would be available on receipt of final report from M/s M.N. Dastur & Co. which is expected shortly.

Demand and availability of Coal

2744. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the projected an nual growth of 6.9 per cent the country will have to face shortage of 36 million lonnes of coal during the current financial year;

(b) whether against the demand of 325 million tonnes of coal, the availability would be less;

(c) to what extent the availability of coal will be less;

(d) the steps taken to meet the demand of coal;

(e) the gap between demand and availability during 1996-97; and

(f) by what time shortage of coal will be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (e) The total availability of coal from domestic sources has been estimated at 290.65 million tonnes, Planning Commission has estimated that the gap between demand and availability of raw coal from domesitc sources during the year 1996-97 would be 34.35 million tonnes. Import of superior grade of coking coal for blending purpose is expected to be of the order of 9 million tonnes. Additional coal supplies from domestic sources to an extent of 5 million tonnes has been offered from Korba coalfield and can be made available subject to availability of transportation.

Steps being taken to augment domestics production of coal include the following:—

(i) Opening up of new mines and in-, creasing efficiency and productivity Sn existing mines by modernisation, application of new technologies and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

(ii) Partial de-regulation of coal prices is likely to improve internal resource generation of coal companies which will enable new projects to be taken up. It will also improve the financial viability of new mining projects.

(iii) The capital base of Coal India Limited has been restructured to enable it to raise additional financial resources from the capital markets which are required to add new coal production capacity.

(iv) Steps are being taken in co-ordination with the Railways to remove the transportation bottlenecks in such coalfield areas which have potential for enhanced production.

(v) Steps are being taken to remove the bottlenecks in land acquisition.

(vi) Private sector companies engaged in production of iron and steel, cement and generation of power have been permitted to take up coal mining for captive consumption. This is expected to increase domestic coal production.

(f) The demestic production of coking coal of the quality required for metallurgical use is not adequate to meet the domestic demand. Hence some imports of superior grade of coking coals shall be inevitable to bridge this gap and also for blending purposes on quality considerations. The domestic production of superior grade of non-coking coal is also limited. The gap between the demand and availability of non-coking coal shall depend upon the rate of growth in coal demand, the rate at which new investments are made in coal mining projects as well as the feasibility of its transportation.

Trade Fair Organised in Kenya

2745. SHRI K. M. KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some fair known as Made in India was'organised in Kenya in recent pa«t exhibiting wide range of foods manufactured;

(b) if so, details thereof with names of goods exhibited, manufacturer-wise;

(c) whether some formalities were prescribed for participation in such a fair;